

to each of his brothers, *Ghullam Ali*, *Kurm Ali*, and *Murad Ali*. *Futteh Ali Khan* and *Ghullam* died; the former in 1801 A. D. 1216 H., and the latter in 1811 A. D. 1226 H. *Futteh Ali* left a son, (*Sob-dhar*,) and *Ghullam* also (*Mahomed*,) who with their uncles, *Murad Ali* and *Kurum Ali*, share the government of *Sindh*, with the title of *Ameers*.

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NOTE.—It is impossible to add to the already very luminous and interesting history given by Dr. J. Burnes in his visit to the Court of Sindh, of the rulers of the families of the Kaloras and Talpuras; as my paper would not however have been complete without some notice of their dynasties; I have compressed them into a close and small space, leaving out most of those incidents which have been so graphically described by Dr. Burnes. T. P.

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*Notes on the Manners and Habits of the Torkoman Tribes, with some Geographical Notices of the Country they occupy.—By EDWARD STIRLING, ESQ. B. C. S.*

The *khonat* of *Khiva* has been described by Mr. M. Mouraviev, who was sent by Russia as an envoy to the Khan, at great length, and he has given considerable interest in the deplorable tale of his sufferings. A barbarous nation, in the lowest state of civilization, can have very few objects to engage much attention; and if we except their peculiar manners and customs, and mode of warfare, they are entirely destitute of attractions to the inhabitant of a more refined atmosphere. Without antiquities, edifices, laws, learning, science, arts, and commerce, they have little to *satisfy* or *create* curiosity.

The Torkomans bear the greatest resemblance of all other nations to the Arabians; but they are not decorated with their antiquity of origin; their celebrity, as conquerors, as legislators, and as fanatics; their learning, and their reputed science. While the Arabian *Khaliffs* ruled as the *vicegerents* of Mahomed, the Torkomans were reckoned among the number of their slaves. Their manners are similar; they are equally the children of the Desert, inured to fatigue; pride themselves on their horses and mares; infest the high roads for the purpose of plunder, and enslaving their victims; war among themselves;

manufacture their own tents, clothes, and horse furniture ; tend large flocks of cattle ; move from place to place ; cultivate small portions of land ; eat horse and camel flesh ; and make distant excursions.

They differ from the Arabs yet in several points ; they are more wealthy ; they have less respect for their ancestors ; they have not that romantic sort of love for the other sex ; they do not hold the rights of hospitality to be so essentially incumbent upon them ; they are not so strongly impressed with the obligation of the law of *lex talionis* ; they frequently stain their predatory attacks with murder, which the Arabs always, if possible, avoid ; they are less subject to the vicissitudes of season, as they live in a more temperate climate ; they have a less defensible country, and have been frequently conquered ; they make captures for the purpose of selling them, and this forms their chief article of commerce with *Bokhara*. In their enterprizes they are bold, bloody, desperate, and cruel ; from their enemy they do not expect, and give no quarter, unless to make a slave of their adversary, for the purpose of disposing of him at the best market ; they murder the old men and women, and only take away with them such as may bring a good price, and reimburse them for their trouble ; they are more sordid, less hospitable and generous, and inferior in magnanimity to the Arab ; they have larger forms, fuller faces, broader and more expansive foreheads, smaller eyes, and are more ugly and cunning than the Arab ; they shew a few hairs where we expect to see beard ; large mouths, strong teeth, and moderate sized lips. Their cap distinguishes them from the Persian ; from bottom to top it is large and circular, of the same diameter, and not conical as that of the *Kassilbash* cut ; it is placed on an enormous head, seated on a short but thick neck, and this pillar is supported by a pair of broad shoulders, which gives the outline of a large and expanded body and a full chest. Their food consists of bread, soup, and pillao, diversified with cheese, milk, and fruits.

They generally eat twice a day ; their breakfast is light, composed of bread with fruit or syrup. Their dinner is more substantial, meat under some form always forming the chief portion of it.

The Turkomans are divided into a great many tribes independent of each other, who have their respective chiefs and white beards, (*suffed resh.*)

The country of the Torkomans may be considered, generally speaking, bounded on the north by the river *Ammoo*, and on the south by the river *Tedjen*; but these rivers wind very much, and perhaps it may be better to state the southern boundary of the country to be the Parapamisan range, and from thence north it extends as far as the *Ammoo* river. On the east, it approaches the confines of *Balk* and the towns of *Aukooree*, *Seripool*, *Shiberghan*, on the borders of the Desert. On the west the limit is distinct, it is the *Caspian* sea.

*Khiva* is the capital of a portion of this extensive country; but the more distant Torkoman tribes hold themselves, generally speaking, separate and independent of its rulers. *Orgunge* is the general appellation of this state on the north of *Khorassan*, and among the Torkomans of *Shurraks*. In ancient times this wild, desert, and inhospitable country would appear to have been inhabited by the tribes or races denominated the *Dahæ*, the *Getes*, and *Massagetes*, and the *Mimunceni*.

They have always been noted for their turbulent character and predatory habits, and for rearing that superb horse, which enables them to perform the most extraordinary journeys. The Sultans of *Kharizm* are famous in history. Malek Shah is represented as a noble, high-minded, and liberal sovereign; and the bearing and courage of Jillaladeen, the last sovereign of the Seljukan race, excited the enthusiastic praises even of Genjhis Khan, while he viewed him swimming his horse across the rapid current of the Indus, still continuing to let fly his arrows at him whilst landing on the bank of the stream, admiring his intrepidity. A king of *Kharizm* is mentioned by the historian Arrian, but he makes his residence west of the Caspian, next the country of the Amazons: this locality seems in my opinion evidently a mistake of the copyist.

The brave resistance and the frequent revolts of this people are mentioned by Arrian and Quintus Curtius.

The people of these countries, together with the Sogdians and Scythians, appear to have been the first who checked Alexander's career. The above-quoted historians allow that his detachments were often surprised and defeated; his campaign in this country would seem to have been very harassing, the labour and sufferings of his soldiers



very great. It is scarcely to be expected from posthumous historians that in relating the transactions which occurred in a distant and nearly unknown country, where a different language prevailed, that the correctness of their geographical information should be such as to enable us to trace with minuteness the various cities and petty kingdoms which they have occasion to mention at the distance of two thousand years.\* It is with difficulty we can even guess at the principal places reported by these historians of Alexander the Great to have been subdued by him.

One of the most interesting places to inquire the situation of, it appears to me to be the hill fort, which seems to have been occupied by the Sogdians. This I imagine is no other than the *Killat Nadir*,† which very accurately corresponds with the description given of it by Arrian and Quintus Curtius. The names of nations and cities are very much confounded together, and this would appear to be the case with the Sogdians, Scythians, and Bactrians.‡ This rock may perhaps be thought likewise to answer to that of *Aornas*, since travellers have in vain inquired for it on the banks of the *Indus*; for Arrian says, that Alexander leaving *Herat (Aria)* went to the cities of *Aornas* and *Bactria*. *Killat Nadir* is situated on the borders of the Desert,

\* With reference to the above, the following are submitted; some of them I have endeavoured to settle:—

Drapsaca? Budukshan.

Margiana. Marghina, the valley of the Moorgab river and the territory adjoining.

Nantaca? Sogdiana.

Drangæ? People inhabiting one of the mountain ranges of the Parapamisan spine. They are characterized by Quintus Curtius as “*Bellecosa Nazione.*”

Dai. The Cashgar people inhabiting the Western hills as far as Darwas. These hills are called the “*Beeloor Tay*” I believe.

Mæotis. The lake Aral.

Paratucas?

Choriensis Petra? This is perhaps the present Kellati Nadir in Khorassan.

Nicæa sacro?

Thyrceas?

Ara Sacos? This may be conceived a place of worship of the Sacæ, who were a tribe of Scythians.

Jenippa? Is represented a vastly rich and populous country, which attracted, by its fruitfulness, settlers from all parts. This territory was situated on the borders of Scythia and would correspond to the present Fergana.

† Vide B. Frazer. It is situated north of Meshid, on the borders of the Desert.

‡ These are described as all horsemen who exercise the profession of plunderers even in the time of peace. The Torkomans of the present day are now more barbarous in their cruelties, if possible, in quiet times, than during war.

north of *Meshid*; it is perhaps as strong as any hill fort defended by natural works can possibly be. It has all the advantages of scarped rocks, which form an invincible barrier to an enemy, and must be nearly impregnable to a force destitute of shells. It has, moreover, extensive pasturages and cultivated fields, together with water in great abundance, which probably would never fail. Of all natural defences this is the strongest situated within or near the Torkoman Desert. In this stronghold an army of many thousands might remain secure against every attack of their enemies. It has three gates, one on the north, another on the east, and the last on the south; by these alone it can be entered.

The same mode of warfare, and the same manners of these wild tribes exactly tally with those given by Arrian and Quintus Curtius. *Omnes equites, etiam in pace latrocinii assueti, tam ferocia ingenia non bellum modo sed etiam veniæ desperantes asservant.\** Their perfidy, villany, and barbarity, are as conspicuous now as in the days of Alexander. The Torkomans and the Usbecks are guided by the same principles and sentiments; are the same lawless, restless, and ungovernable race as the Sogdians, the Dahæ, the Massagetes, and the Scythians. The introduction of the religion of Mahomed has wrought little change in their morals, manners, customs, and socialities. Attached to no principles of moral rectitude themselves, they cannot conceive the existence of them in others. From their infancy accustomed to wander and to change their abodes; habituated to scenes of violence and bloodshed, in the perpetration of which no justifiable reason can be assigned, and restrained by no sense of order, reason, and humanity, they aspire to independence, and shun all subjection, whether of a moral or physical nature. Self-defence and preservation are their first consideration; self-aggrandisement and self-exaltation, the next; and in pursuit of this latter object, any and every means, even unto parricide, fratricide, infanticide, and regicide; but even the magnitude of such crimes are exceeded, frequently in the extermination of whole communities of people and extirpation of nations.

The *Oxus* is a river of considerable magnitude; it has a course of upwards of nine hundred miles from its source; its width and depth have not been exactly ascertained, it is however considered unford-

\* Quintus Curtius, p. 231.

able, and has no bridges. The latest traveller, Mr. Moorcroft, found no difficulty in passing it; but unfortunately he omits to state in what manner his passage was effected. The main stream of the *Oxus* is formed of two branches. The right branch is called the *Ping Diria*, and the left branch, which comes from *Baduckshan*, is joined in its course from the *Hindoo Cosh* by several streams, and unites with the *Ping* river near *Hazerut Imam*.

Generally the *Ammoo* or *Oxus* is represented as a muddy, rapid, deep, dirty and sand-bearing river, and to travellers from Persia the largeness of the stream, and the quantity of water, is considered as somewhat wonderful, and they can only compare it with the *Tigris* or *Euphrates*. Mr. Moorcroft thinks it might be rendered navigable\* from lake *Aral* to *Baduckshan*; in support of this supposition it is said, that Nadir Shah directed a thousand boats to be made and prepared for transporting his troops from *Baduckshan*, (or rather *Khundooz*,) to *Bokhara* and *Kharism*. According to Mr. Moorcroft, boats might be towed up by horses; that horses for draught might be easily obtained at a small expence; but before this could be put into execution, some knowledge of the banks on either side seems to be requisite. Alexander found it a difficult matter to cross: he could get no materials of which to construct a bridge, and was obliged to adopt (*then* as it is now in many parts) the practice used in the country, of making rafts by means of blown skins, the buoyancy of which had the desired effect; several rafts thus constructed were sufficient to enable his army to pass this river in the course of five or six days. The Torkomans and the Allemanees† are in the habit of swimming their horses across. The subsidiary branches are frequently crossed by individuals on cows, where the stream is very rapid. There are various contrivances for passing it in different parts of its course, to which the natives are habituated. The *Cabool* river is passed by

\* The *Ammoo* has never been navigated; but as far as I can judge from personal observation, there exists not a single obstacle formidable to its navigation. In respect to barks of large burden especially, if conducted by a steam apparatus, and if objections not foreseen should apply to its agency, I can discover no more against tracking than apply to the Ganges, with a superior advantage of the command of as many horses as would possibly be required for that purpose, at a very low price.—*Mr. Moorcroft's MS. letter from Bokhara.*

† The name of the gangs that go out forays.



means of blown cow or buffalo skins, which are fastened to a slight raft of twigs. These rafts are called *jallahs*; they are very troublesome to manage, and dangerous, and accidents often happen. While the baggage and owners are thus ferried across, the cattle following each other swim to the opposite side. The *Oxus* is frequently frozen over; when this is the case, it can be crossed upon the ice. It abounds in fish, but we do not know that fishing is an occupation much followed by those who reside on its banks. Before it reaches the *Aral* it would seem to be divided into several streams, besides those canals which have been cut for the purpose of being conducted to remote spots of cultivation: the principal towns situated on these divided streams are *Oorgunge*, *Khiva*, *Toorbat*, *Suggur*, and *Sulughan*;\* but these are probably little better than large encampments, except *Khiva* and *Oorgunge*, which are walled, and have ditches; but these defences are very miserable even in the opinion of the people of *Bokhara*. The southern bank of the river, and perhaps the other likewise, is covered for a considerable distance from the river with lofty reeds, which form a kind of forest, in which the Turkomans pitch their tents and feed their cattle; and I rather suspect that wild beasts also exist in these masses of reeds. Whence the ancients called this river the *Oxus*, as it bears no resemblance to the modern names, the *Ammoo* and the *Jehoon* has not yet been ascertained. Mr. Moorcroft has offered a supposition, that that it is derived from the Turkish word *aksoo*; this appears to me a happy etymology, as it characterizes the river, the word signifying a white river.

The banks of this stream are much frequented by the Turkomans; they annually cultivate small patches to supply themselves with grain on this side of the river; the best and most approved horses are bred, especially the *karrabay*, reared by the Turkomans. It is one of the finest castes which is procurable. The government of the Turkoman resembles that of a father over his family; each head of a family exercises absolute authority over its members; these consist of his wives, his children, his slaves, and such dependents

\* At *Oorgunge* my informant left the banks of the *Oxus*, situated eight coss from the main channel. From this he travelled to the N. N. W. passing the towns of *Toorbat*, *Suggur*, and *Sulughan* on to the city of *Khiva*, situated on the banks of a large river called the *Heelem*, nearly as large as the *Oxus*.—*Lieut. Macartney's Memoirs*, see *Appendix to Elphinstone's Cabool*, page 648.

who are too weak or too poor to have separate establishments, submit themselves to his authority, and live under his protection. These dependents are frequently relations, or somehow connected by near or more distant ties of blood. The orphans and relations of other chiefs, who have died without leaving any heir of sufficient years to provide for their families, are also united to them by a remembrance of the friendship which subsisted between the two chiefs before one of them died ; and so long as they are treated with consideration, they seldom think of separating from the chief who has shewn them kindness and assisted them in their difficulties. Several heads of families form an *owl*, who unite themselves, and in conjunction make their annual peregrinations for the sake of pasturing their flocks, or for the purpose of proceeding to a distant spot near some river or stream, to rear their crops to supply them with grain. These migrations generally commence about the beginning of spring, upon the breaking up of the winter, when the snow melts and the weather becomes warmer ; at this period of the year, pasturage for the cattle is plentiful every where, and water is abundant. This is a season in which the Torkoman delights, and his flocks and beasts sympathise with him. They yield him their young, and a vast quantity of milk ; they become fat and sleek, and travel with alacrity to new pastures. It is at this time that parties are made up to go on forays ; one of these gangs generally consists of from twenty to sixty horsemen, well mounted and armed with swords and spears, and not seldom with matchlocks and pistols. Before hand, the object of their expedition is settled, which is generally to way-lay a *kafila*, or body of travellers ; on some occasions very large bodies are united to make expeditions on particular points of attack—such as on the frontier of Persia. *Meshid* was an instance of this a short time before my arrival in 1828. The Torkomans on this occasion joined several bodies of *Hazerahs* and *Jumshidies*, to ensure the success of the expedition ; a quantity of booty was obtained, such as horses, mules, and slaves of different sexes. The attack having been made shortly after sunrise, when the cattle of the city had left it for the purpose of grazing, they found no opposition in driving them away, together with the captives.

The dress of the Torkomans in general consists of a pair of *pijamahs* or *shelwars*, which are fastened at the ancle ; over these they wear



a pair of high boots, which reach to the knee, commonly made of red Russian leather; for a shirt they wear next their skin a *perahan*, (tunic); over the *pijammahs* and *perahan*, they wear a *chogha* or cloak with sleeves, which is fastened by a slender *kummarbund* made of cloth or leather, to which is attached two knives in a case and a small purse. Above the under *chogha* they often put on a second, which is allowed to remain loose pending from the shoulders. On their head they have a black lamb-skin cap, with the wool of a jet colour and naturally curled.

The shape of this cap is not of a conical form as that of the Persians. Its diameter is the same at the top as at the part which immediately encircles the head.

They always wear a sword, (*shumsheer*,) which is either carried in the hand or fastened to the waist. They seldom wear a *peshkubz*. Their *choghas* are made of some blue cloth in the warm months, and of coarse woollen cloth in the cold season; the latter are either grey camel hair, coloured or black. The women are remarkable for wearing lofty turbans; they are fond of silks and splendid colours for their dresses. When young, their hair is allowed to grow long and unconfined, divided into plaits, to which are fastened behind small pieces of silver; some tribes wear their hair loose and exposed, others conceal it by turbans having loose locks hanging down. Their appearance has a certain rudeness, but not without something striking and interesting. The occupations of the men are predatory attacks; the chase; the breeding and the care, exercise, and instruction of their horses; tending their cattle; supervision of their slaves and their women, who are employed in making carpets, musnuds, (or felts,) loose furniture; overlooking their fields, and directing agricultural employments, and ploughing, sowing, and reaping; the setting up, taking down, and loading their tents. They are more accustomed to command than to obey. They exact implicit obedience from their wives, children, and dependents of all kinds. Their amusements are few. They like music, warlike anecdotes, breaking in their horses, exercising themselves in the use of the sword and the lance, and sometimes in using the matchlock. They delight in feasts and the pleasures of the table. They chase deer with an excellent breed of grey-hounds. Their women are employed in house-

hold duties, often have separate tents ; subject to them are female slaves, who act under their orders ; they prepare the ordinary food of the family, wash the linen, make up clothes for their husbands and themselves ; churn and make the coagulated milk and cheese ; bake the bread, and bring the water from the rivulet or fountain ; they assist in erecting the tents, in laying down the *nummud*, and cleaning the floor. They do not cover their faces with that scrupulosity that is practised in Persia ; they do not hide their faces except from newly-arrived strangers ; their manners are free and unconstrained ; their duties compel them to be much exposed to the climate. They are fond of singing and sometimes dance, particularly at marriages. I found them kind in supplying my wants ; both the men and the women are much given to pass their time in idleness and listlessness, and require much excitement to rouse them to action. In physical appearance the Turkomans are very muscular, large-bodied men ; they have very thick short necks, enormous heads with a broad front ; they have scanty beards which seldom exceed a few straggling hairs upon the chin. In their manners they are rude ; in their eating dirty and uncleanly ; their victuals are often imperfectly dressed by fire ; they are fond of animal food ; eat goat's flesh, and that of any animal which they can obtain.

These notes, (written in 1830,) were kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Stirling, and are the result of that gentleman's personal observations during his travels in a part of Asia, little known in 1828. He has also obliged me with papers on Bokhara and Kothan, which will appear in their course.

